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Letter dated 15 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a joint communiqué from the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda, Amama Mbabazi, and the Minister of Defence of the Republic of the Sudan, Major-General Bakri Hassan Saleh, on cooperation in defence.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Semakula **Kiwanuka**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 15 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué

1. At the invitation of the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Uganda, Amama Mbabazi, the Minister of Defence of the Republic of the Sudan, Major General Bakri Hassan Saleh, paid a two-day visit to Uganda on 8 and 9 January 2003.

2. (a) The Minister of Defence of the Republic of the Sudan was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including:

(i) Major General Mohamed Ali Elshiekh, Director of Operations;

(ii) Major General Mohamed Abdelgadir Nasir Aldin, Commander of Engineers Corps;

(iii) Major General Mahjoub Abdallah Sharfi, Military Intelligence;

(iv) Major General Hassab Aldaiem Maragan, Director of Protocol;

(v) Ambassador Rahamat Allah Mohamed Osman, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

(b) The Minister of Defence of Uganda was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including:

(i) Major General James Kazini, Army Commander;

(ii) Brigadier General Nyakairima Aronda, Operation's Overall Commander (OOC), "Operation Iron Fist";

(iii) Brigadier General Levi Karuhanga, Commanding Officer, First Division;

(iv) Colonel Noble Mayombo, Chief, Military Intelligence;

(v) Ambassador Mull Katende, Ambassador-designate to the Republic of the Sudan.

3. During the visit, the two Ministers of Defence held bilateral talks at the Ministry of Defence headquarters in Bombo, on cooperation in defence. In particular, they reviewed implementation of the existing agreements and protocols. They were satisfied at the progress being achieved.

4. The Ugandan delegation briefed their Sudanese counterparts on progress regarding "Operation Iron Fist" and the Sudanese delegation made assurances of its support for the success of the operation. In this regard:

(a) The Sudan People's Armed Forces (SPAF) will deploy in the former camps occupied by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) as soon as possible;

(b) The Sudanese Government reiterated its firm position against any contacts between the Sudan People's Armed Forces (SPAF) units and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA);

(c) The Sudan People's Armed Forces (SPAF) and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) shall deploy the liaison officers in the respective joint operations rooms at Gulu, Juba, Arua and Kitgum immediately.

5. The Sudanese delegation presented a draft protocol on implementation of article 4 of the Nairobi Agreement relating to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) for consideration by their Ugandan counterparts.

6. The two Ministers reiterated the urgent need to convene the Joint Ministerial Commission during the month of January 2003.

7. The Minister of Defence of Uganda extended an invitation to his counterpart, the Minister of Defence of the Sudan, to attend the Uganda Army Day celebrations on 6 February 2003, which invitation was gladly accepted.

8. During the visit, the Sudan delegation paid a courtesy call on President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni in Gulu.

Signed on 9 January 2003, at Kampala

Major General Bakri Hassan Saleh

Amama Mbabazi